Rome for Civita Vecchia
3d August 1874

My dear Tom

I am fill'd with envy of your going to dance at your Son's Wedding & you did not invite me for I have piped & ye have not danced but I beg to congratulate you, tho' I dont know what Monti's calling it — Then youve got dear Emma & Anderson from Cairo. So there's no hands to my envy — For all my old friends are dead & gone & I sometimes think that I am living too long & try to kick at my loneness for my painting is my only companion, tho' as yet I excel in it, but people dont much care about it, tho' the other day I sold a picture which has given me a nice prop up

The ungrateful world has forgot my former doings in Art & only recollect my consulate, so now I'll only paint for myself & keep up my spirits with paints & brushes — But here's other to do

the Brigands are here about the town & have
robbed a Signor & his wife on the 3d but as
great doings are going on I'll even wait & keep
quiet till I go to Rome - I've still to take the 4
baths & then to be sure I can get an escort
of dragoons for the gov.t is very active

But the harvest is so abundant that
the people don't know where to put the corn
& can hardly find time to prepare my
& baths - the rain is damaging the corn -

The great doings are a rail way from
this to Civita Vecchia for the conveyance of
minerals from these mountains & there are
6 fine resolute Englishmen working, but
they make a fortress at some 4 miles from
the town

But I am very comfortable with my
excellent donna who caters & cooks, the
good things abound particularly wine & fruit
& I am very well save a little weakness
caused by the baths

As the good people here consider my cure as
a miracle, they have begged of me an offering picture

of a Madonna for the Church which I have done & presented & so make my peace

You will have heard of my sad loss of my dear daughter Claudia but as she had been so long ill the blow was less, & I am right glad

Maria says that she is entering her 78th year, now this I think a mistake & she must be 76 unless she is jealous of my 80 & so makes a show up

The vines are loaded with grapes such as not been for many years & the corn is so ample that it cannot be housed for the want of hands & house - The fruit is also in prodigal quantity

No' the peaches have not yet shown up

5th August. I am not afraid of the Brigand for the gov't has sent such a troop of good soldiers, that every protection is possible - one Thief was taken this morn with a false key trying to open a shop but the many woods will afford concealment yet the people are very honest & industrious so that I have little to fear

Left to myself my vivid memory (for I seem not to have forgotten a thing) presents all the incidents of my life from boyhood, certainly we

to Eleanor

I am to receive the interest of £50 a year of which I shall be glad as my cabbing costs me dearly & unless I sell another picture I may go to the wall a little

my son Walter & his family have been in Scotland some time at his wifes home - I was very sad very sad the death of dear Claudia angel as she was - Curious fact that the Italian school of singing has come to an end in these political times & a german prima donna is to sing in Rome as all the Italians have had their day & deserve a change - People are not coming to Rome as usual but are going to Egypt, so these cheating Romans will have also a fall - for there is no end to the impostures they put upon the English

Tom hopes that his letter may find me as well as he & all his are at present & so it does

I am up at 6, breakfast at 7, read my news papers till 9 paint till 1 dine & have 40 winks till 3 at 4 cab it to S. Pietro in montorio where I remain walking till 6 then cab it again 3 miles home, this I try to do every day but I can't come up to the scratch quite, but yet I come it well & I wont complain - My friends the D.r & his ladies are good company but do not care about painting or music this is a drawback - your loving brother Joe